

Players' Fraternity May Be Smashed When National Commission Dissolves

FRATERNITY WILL BE HIT HARD AS MOGULS WIND UP COMMISSION

GRIFF DOUBTS REPORT ABOUT COMMISSION

"It is a surprise to me to hear that the National Commission will go out of business," said Manager Griffith today, "and I'm inclined to doubt it. Baseball needs a governing body of some kind, and the commission has answered that purpose perfectly. If it does dissolve, I think baseball will be weakened greatly. I don't know anything about it, but I hardly think it will quit now."

By LOUIS A. DOUGHER.

More troubles face the professional baseball player. As soon as the Federal League withdraws its suit in the United States courts, the National Commission will dissolve. That this will have a far-reaching effect on the national game goes without saying. Just what the players will do about it cannot now be said, but one of the first results is expected to be the rapid disintegration of the Players' Fraternity, headed by Dave Fultz, an old outfielder with the Mackmen and Yankees, now an attorney in New York. Whether or not it will affect the staging of an annual world's series is not known, but it will certainly bring about a lot of criticism, if the winning clubs are allowed to handle the annual battles for the biggest title of all in baseball.

The National Commission was formed in 1904 to settle all arguments in baseball, to act as referee between the major leagues, between the majors and the minors, and as a court of last resort for the ball player with a grievance. In the history of the trio, the heads of the two big leagues and Chairman Garry Herrmann, no serious complaints have ever been lodged against its decisions on matters pertaining to the game. No court in the land has ever earned a better reputation for honesty and a deep desire to reach the bottom in its hunt for truth. Until last year the decisions of the National Commission were final and accepted as such by all clubs and players connected with the national game.

In 1915 the commission heard no players' cases, nor did it hear any appeals from decisions made by the National Board of Minor Leagues. Unsettled conditions in baseball caused this apathy on the part of the commission and the Players' Fraternity made a strenuous objection, through President Fultz. Right then, it is said, the members of the commission decided to dissolve the body as soon as convenient. As soon as peace is ratified by all warring sections, the National Commission will pass out of existence, leaving a yawning void for the players and magnates to fill for themselves.

PLAYERS WILL BE AFFECTED.

The players are sure to be affected, and affected most seriously. Clubs will find themselves over their heads with liabilities, with no way out of the middle. Players with grievances against their managers or owners will have only their own league, if minor leagues, as a judge. Minor leagues will still have their national board as a court of appeal, but throughout the country there will be lacking a superior guide for the conduct of players, managers and magnates. Some action on the part of the players' fraternity is expected within a few weeks, for the dissolving of the national commission is going to have serious effect upon all major league ball players.

That troubles are piling up for the magnates and players is seen by the resignation of Ed Latham, president of the International League, from the peace committee, composed of the national commission, James A. Gilmore, two other members of the Federal League, and himself.

"I have resigned from this committee, as there does not seem to be any action taken by the Federal League to get together," said Mr. Latham. "We shall go on with our plans for next season without further consideration. In Buffalo we shall not use the Federal League Park, but shall continue to use the International League grounds. I am sure we shall make a reasonable offer for the Federal grounds and if it is not met we shall begin to build new grounds in Newark. We are dealing with the major leagues, who have taken over Sinclair's stadium at Harrison, N.J. The stronger minor leagues, whether over losing property interest in many players jumping their circuits for the Federal League, have been registering strong complaints for several weeks. The International League lost a large number of players to the ranks of the Feds, and if they want any of them back again, they will have to buy them. The majors obtaining any of these players will pay Harry Sinclair and not the former club, owning them. Profits have been entered by the International League, American Association, Western League, Central League, and Pacific Coast League. Thus far, no action has been taken on these protests. According to a recent announcement of the National Commission, these minor leagues will have no redress.

There is no fault on the part of the major leagues to abolish the National Commission, but the minors have been making strong efforts to obtain representation upon it. Added to this is a demand from the Players' Fraternity that it too have a representative on the body in charge of the game. Both these demands were refused, causing considerable dissatisfaction, particularly on the part of the minor leagues.

The National Commission has been costly, though it has been well worth its cost. It is supported by a tax of two per cent of the gross receipts of the world's series. Until 1914 this world's series profit was sufficient to pay all the expenses of the commission, but the four-game series between the Braves and the Mackmen proved to be not enough. Again in 1915 the profits were smaller than needed, resulting as the earnings of the major league clubs were smaller than usual.

It is said that the members of the commission were ready to dissolve and the recent meeting in Cincinnati brought about a ratified peace. The failure of this effort has postponed such action until peace is actually in being. The trio will pass out of existence as a commission and troubles will begin.

Connie Mack is now expected to play Wallie Schanz behind the bat. Schanz started the league by his fine playing in 1914 as a catcher. Last year he held down third base and the outfield. His fielding was poor and his hitting fell off. The transfer of Schanz to Chicago makes the fans believe that Schanz will again be seen behind the batter.

"Red" Blum, a Cleveland boy, will hardly get a chance to show his class in the big show, though drafted by some-

IVORY IS A POTENT QUANTITY IN THINGS SPORTING



BOSTON FANS GLAD GAFFNEY SOLD CLUB

Being a "Native Son," Haghton Is Sure to Be Supported in Every Move.

BOSTON, Mass., Jan. 10.—Hub baseball fans composed of practically the entire populace now that the first shock of the Braves' sale had passed, today began to realize that perhaps the move was all for the best interests of the club.

Percy Haghton, new president of the club, has an opportunity to become Boston's most popular citizen, and fans were almost unanimous in expressing the belief that he would grasp it. His first move proved a most popular one, when he declared that Manager Stallings will be the "big" party as far as the actual playing end of matters goes.

Gaffney's passing, however, is regretted on all sides today. But Haghton is a Bostonian, and Bostonians generally are getting in behind him.

Jack Golden Offers Coin For Welsh-White Contest

CHICAGO, Jan. 10.—A live Westerner in the person of Jack Golden, of San Antonio, Tex., stirred things in 1915 circles here today with the announcement that he was willing to watch a Welsh-White go if staged in the Lone Star State and pay \$15,000 for the prize.

"It looks good to me," said Nat Lewis, manager of White, "Golden will see Welsh at New York this week."

Sinclair Says He Lacks Enough Money for Club

NEW YORK, Jan. 10.—James Gaffney is now reported to be yanking for the Giants. Following the sale of the Boston Braves, Gaffney is said to have expressed a desire to take over the New York team. Gaffney's business interests are centered here and he could direct his baseball club affairs to better advantage than in Boston, it is said.

Harry Sinclair, former Federal League angel, was mentioned as being connected with Gaffney in the reported Giants deal. Sinclair today said, however, that he believed he was through with baseball as he "did not have enough money to buy a club."

Dillon Awaiting Word.

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 10.—Jack Dillon awaited more definite word today from New York promoters concerning the proposed match with Moran. The offer was recently made Jack to "box the winner of last night's fight, and Dillon readily accepted.

"I'm willing to put my 176 pounds against Moran's '50 any time," said Jack today. "I don't think he's as tough as Jim Flynn."

Philadelphia Clubs Are After Tennis Tournament

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 10.—Developed today that another big fight will develop at the annual meeting when the Philadelphia representatives apply for the national tennis all-coners' tournament. Howard W. Lewis, of the Merion Cricket Club, of Philadelphia, is au-

thority for the statement that his club would bid for the national classic. It is probable that the Philadelphia and Germantown cricket clubs will be claimants for the honor. Each of the three clubs have at least fifty out courts and are able to handle the tournament. The women's national championships have been staged on the Philadelphia Cricket Club courts since they were first established, while the Merion club has staged every intercollegiate championship tournament.

MINCE PIE "LITTLE OF EVERYTHING" BY "BUGS" BAER.

TO THE FAN.

The old year went, the new year came.

'Mid blaring horn and loud acclaim.

The new year lived, the old year died.

And millions laughed where but one cried.

You cheered the new, you jeered the old.

Time casts a new year from life's mold.

You jeered the old, you cheered the new—

Four seasons flash—you jeer him, too!

With all due regard to Pat Moran and Bill Carrigan, we still insist the finest managers in the world are turned out by the United States Bureau of Engraving.

Brief Sporting Items From Everywhere

Arthur Irwin and Joe Higgins, scouts of the Detroit Tigers, are negotiating a baseball team with which to invade Cuba, Porto Rico, and Panama. It is planned to leave New York January 15, and return March 15. The Government will pay the expenses of the team in return for the late Marshall Newell's arrival in this country in August, 1914, with the intention of racing for the America's Cup.

This year young lawn tennis players of Philadelphia, New York, and other cities are expected to be encouraged and instructed and helped on their way by the tuition, gratuitous at that, of the other players of the clubs. Practice courts are to be built, and professionals are to be imported with the idea of developing youngsters.

Phillips-Exeter Academy is to have a new clubhouse in the Swampscott river. It will cost \$2,000, and will be built as a memorial to the late Marshall Newell, of the class of '90. After leaving Exeter, Newell went to Harvard and during his stay there won prominence as a football player. A gateway erected to his memory stands at the entrance of Soldiers' Field, Harvard's big stadium.

Holy Cross baseball management is making an effort to secure "Kitty" Bransfield, the old National Leaguer, as coach for the coming season. Last year Bransfield, umpired in the New England League, but is one of the men President Taylor of the National League, has in mind for 1916.

University of North Carolina football team has some interesting news out for it early in the fall. One of its first games will be played against the Tigers at Princeton on November 7, and a week later the team will fill an engagement with the Harvard team in the stadium at Cambridge. The team hopes that it will be able to remain in the North between the matches.

Chicago University has had two four-letter athletes in the last two or three years—Nelson Norzen, new coaching in Colorado, and Paul Desjardins, who was graduated last June and is to be an assistant coach to Director Stagg. Football, baseball, basketball, and the field events in the track games are Desjardins' specialties.

Charles Barrett, Cornell football star and captain last fall, was the guest of honor at a luncheon given by graduates of Cornell, Yale, Princeton, Dartmouth, Western Reserve, Kenyon, and Case at Cleveland on Monday.



"The world is always willing to pat a man on the back when it discovers he has a boil there."

Nothing but a neck of land impedes navigation in the Panama canal, but it begins to appear as if it were a wrestler's neck.

Answers to Queries. Ed Quieres—Have recently discovered several shiny sticks in my attic. Is the sport played here, and where can I get some practice? IMA FLINN.

Quieres Editor—I am a well built, young man. My friends say I am handsome. On account of my startling resemblance to Nick Al-trock, all of my friends are certain I will make a great baseball player. What is the best way to get into the big league? Yours, FULLER EGO.

Dear Fuller, the best way for you to break into the big league is to have the price of admission. Then you will need a uniform and cap like all the good pitchers. Buy a nickel cap of peanuts and you will have enough caps to last you all season. Your resemblance to Nick Al-trock will help you with some big league manager as they say that pity is akin to love.

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The Grand Wind-Up of the Perkins Sale

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I am going to make these four remaining days memorable in Washington retailing. Such prices have never been heard of before. Talk about cost—that has been entirely forgotten in these final reductions.

You can't afford to overlook this opportunity. You have never had one like it. You cannot hope for another to even approach it in value and saving.

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Tuxedo Vests Black—Sizes 35, 36 and 38 \$1.95

25c Collars Mostly "Wing." No. 15 or 16 2c

Dress Vests White—Sizes 40, 42 and 44 \$1.95

Sweaters Sizes 34 to 46. \$3.50 to \$7.00 \$1.50

Rain Coats All that were \$5.00 \$1.50

Night Shirts Muslin and Flannelette. \$1.00 and \$1.50 58c

Rain Coats All that were \$8.00 \$2.50

Pajamas Madras and Flannel. \$1.50 and \$2.00 85c

Reefers Silk or Wool. Worth up to \$3.00 \$1.35

Shirts White and Fancy Dress and Neglige. \$1.00 to \$3.50 69c

Underwear 50c Grade 28c

Neckwear All 50c Scarfs. 6 for \$1.00 18c

Handkerchiefs 25c Grade 11c

Gloves Tan, Gray and White Kid. \$1.50 and \$2. 85c

Wool Gloves 50c, 75c and \$1.00 Grades 36c

Umbrellas Plain and Sterling Trimmed 85c

Hosiery 50c and \$1 Silks 36c

Garters All 25c Kinds Single or Double Grip 2 for 25c

Suspenders 50c Grade 19c

\$1 Gold Mounted 59c

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